

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, obesity is a complex condition, influenced by behavioral, environmental and biological factors, that increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, some forms of cancer, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, approximately sixty-five percent of the adults in the Palmetto State are overweight, with twenty-nine percent of its residents considered obese, and over a quarter of our low-income children aged 2 - 5 and high school students are overweight or at risk of overweight; and

WHEREAS, obesity places a large economic burden on our state, with expenses over one billion dollars in 2005, nearly half of which were paid by taxpayers through Medicare and Medicaid; and

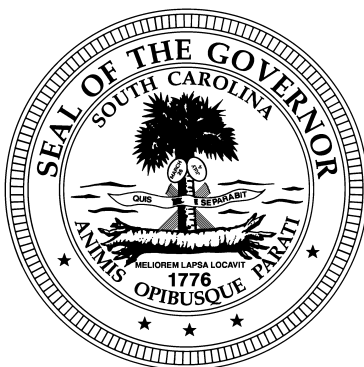
WHEREAS, wide-scale, population-based efforts to enhance proper nutrition, physical activity, and other healthy behaviors positively impact obesity, improving the quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, developed by the South Carolina Coalition for Obesity Prevention Efforts, "Moving South Carolina Towards a Healthy Weight: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Healthy Communities" provides the framework for implementing initiatives to impact this epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2007 as

OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in obesity prevention efforts where they live, work, and play and to make healthier decisions in their day-to-day lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA